



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 21, 2005

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Good Week for Field Work: Last week brought welcome showers to many parts of the state, particularly on Tuesday and Friday. Many producers were able to take time away from their chores and attend Ag Progress Days in State College. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included haymaking, baling straw, harvesting oats, harvesting peaches and apples, spreading fertilizer, mowing pastures, silo filling, and preparing for fall plantings.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 21, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
38	32	29	1

Crops: Ninety-three percent of the soybean crop is now setting pods, ahead of last year and well ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean conditions declined slightly from a week ago as 61 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Sixty-six percent of the corn crop is in the dough stage, and 21 percent of the crop is dented. Both figures are well behind last year's pace but in line with historic averages. Corn crop conditions improved slightly from last week as 54 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-five percent of the crop is harvested, well ahead of schedule for this time of year. Seventeen percent of potatoes and 20 percent of the tobacco crop are now harvested, both behind last year's pace. Fourteen percent of barley has been planted, whereas none had been planted at the same point one year ago. Eighty-one percent of the 3rd cutting and 6 percent of the 4th cutting of alfalfa is now complete. The 3rd cutting is well ahead of schedule while the 4th cutting is slightly behind. Sixty-nine percent of the 2nd cutting of timothy is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 34 percent good,

and 13 percent excellent.

The apple crop looks good as 82 percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent. Fifty-eight percent of the peach crop has now been harvested as well as 23 percent of the apple crop. The peach harvest has fallen behind the historic pace.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved ever so slightly with last week's rain and are now rated with the following: 38 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 13 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

U.S. As of August 14, 2005: Highlights: Temperature averaged below normal in the northern and southern Great Plains and northern and central Rocky Mountains. Hot weather prevailed elsewhere, with high temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit nearly nationwide. The warm weather favored summer crop development, particularly in the Corn Belt. Moderate to heavy precipitation across the central Corn Belt eased dryness in the area but brought little improvement to crop conditions. Corn: The acreage doughing or beyond advanced to 65 percent, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal. Twenty-three percent of the crop was at or beyond the dent stage, compared with 22 percent last year and 21 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: Eighty-nine percent of the crop was setting pods, 10 points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of normal. Crop condition improved slightly in the central and western Corn Belt but declined in most other areas. Winter Wheat: Harvest was 96 percent complete, 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Small Grains: The barley harvest advanced to 49 percent complete, 24 points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of normal. Eighty-four percent of the Nation's oat crop had been harvested, compared with 64 percent last year and 74 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest advanced 27 points in Minnesota and 21 points in North Dakota and Pennsylvania. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all States.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 21, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 21, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	87	61	73	4	0.19	2	12.28	-4.56	49	2,188	326	3,432
Franklin	86	56	72	4	0.98	6	16.42	-3.18	82	1,997	234	3,289
Meadville	84	58	72	5	0.48	3	16.33	-2.91	57	2,080	464	3,368
Mercer	87	57	72	5	1.01	6	17.52	-0.94	79	2,053	309	3,323
Springboro	85	55	70	1	1.57	3	16.98	0.12	63	1,902	48	3,130
Warren	86	57	71	4	0.59	4	13.60	-5.79	59	1,966	250	3,238
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	48	68	5	0.59	5	16.81	-2.70	65	1,557	294	2,756
Emporium	89	53	72	7	0.75	5	11.73	-8.03	61	1,968	557	3,241
Kane	84	48	67	5	0.81	4	13.24	-6.47	55	1,500	256	2,690
Laporte	86	54	68	-1	0.25	5	17.32	-0.71	68	1,778	14	3,007
Lock Haven	97	55	74	6	0.84	4	9.70	-8.08	50	2,241	377	3,564
Port Allegany	85	49	68	5	0.51	6	11.67	-6.76	55	1,703	311	2,906
Renovo	93	53	74	5	0.35	4	8.30	-9.48	49	2,210	346	3,532
Ridgway	86	53	70	6	0.58	3	13.93	-5.83	57	1,726	315	2,973
Stevenson Dam	90	55	73	9	0.54	3	11.37	-8.39	60	2,077	666	3,381
Towanda	88	54	72	4	0.28	3	12.56	-2.38	50	2,068	290	3,354
Wellsboro	87	49	68	4	0.54	3	16.66	1.60	52	1,674	335	2,876
Williamsport	94	56	75	5	1.00	4	17.68	0.00	45	2,387	332	3,721
Northeast												
Hawley	92	50	69	4	0.11	3	14.81	-2.18	52	1,852	332	3,102
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	96	56	76	7	0.06	3	11.16	-5.45	49	2,414	459	3,748
Susquehanna	88	52	70	5	0.12	3	16.12	-2.06	61	1,969	513	3,236
West Central												
Butler	91	57	73	4	1.00	4	15.07	-3.48	57	2,105	280	3,439
New Castle	91	57	75	7	1.19	3	17.33	0.48	55	2,272	444	3,602
Slippery Rock	92	56	73	7	0.33	5	16.34	-1.67	58	2,112	461	3,456
Central												
Altoona/Blair	93	53	72	3	0.79	4	9.68	-6.59	38	2,047	92	3,360
DuBois	86	54	71	4	0.94	6	13.50	-5.07	73	1,929	228	3,224
Lewistown	96	58	74	4	0.91	4	13.53	-4.11	48	2,357	217	3,712
Middletown	96	63	76	3	0.70	3	14.40	-2.75	44	2,720	308	4,115
Prince Gallitzi	89	52	70	4	1.52	6	15.13	-5.78	62	1,825	258	3,091
Selinsgrove	95	58	73	4	1.02	3	15.13	-2.68	49	2,271	265	3,606
State College	92	58	72	3	1.16	4	9.90	-6.43	53	2,248	312	3,592
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	95	60	75	4	0.30	3	17.20	-1.29	52	2,440	227	3,809
Lehighton	95	58	74	3	0.60	3	16.98	-1.42	52	2,237	98	3,585
Matamoras	87	52	70	0	2.61	4	17.22	-1.64	57	1,958	20	3,247
Tobyhanna	93	56	72	8	0.94	4	19.36	-0.46	77	2,180	841	3,516
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	60	75	6	1.22	4	13.18	-4.23	60	2,522	561	3,901
Derry	93	58	72	4	1.98	4	18.08	0.03	52	2,129	280	3,465
Myersdale	87	52	70	0	1.43	5	14.92	-4.87	52	1,665	-142	2,908
Mount Pleasant	88	55	73	6	2.04	4	18.85	-1.56	65	2,087	442	3,426
Pittsburgh Intl	91	58	75	6	1.25	3	16.43	0.02	56	2,397	346	3,759
Rector	89	57	72	6	1.34	6	16.92	-3.49	79	2,077	432	3,413
Waynesburg	91	58	74	5	1.67	3	15.01	-3.03	51	2,163	263	3,511
South Central												
Biglerville	95	58	74	1	1.80	3	17.87	1.99	53	2,406	48	3,779
Everett	94	53	71	1	0.51	4	9.50	-6.37	49	1,698	-237	2,967
Hanover	94	59	74	1	1.14	3	19.55	3.67	49	2,390	32	3,754
Shippensburg	94	59	75	2	0.95	5	18.63	2.86	58	2,452	111	3,813
South Mountain	90	56	70	1	1.66	5	17.69	1.42	50	2,096	148	3,469
York	94	58	75	3	1.29	5	13.24	-4.26	41	2,424	78	3,787
Southeast												
Green Lane	95	61	75	5	0.97	3	15.67	-2.38	45	2,427	317	3,803
Hamburg	94	59	75	6	0.51	4	16.99	-4.05	47	2,451	517	3,821
Hopewell	95	61	75	1	1.07	4	19.41	0.65	67	2,439	-36	3,817
Lancaster	94	62	75	3	0.61	3	19.01	0.57	46	2,485	261	3,859
Neshaminy Falls	95	60	74	3	1.30	3	19.75	-1.32	40	2,297	93	3,648
New Holland	96	62	75	4	0.59	3	15.61	-2.83	45	2,539	315	3,917
Philadelphia	95	66	78	3	0.49	3	16.11	-1.88	44	2,821	281	4,238
Philadelphia NE	96	64	78	3	0.66	3	19.02	1.03	44	2,759	219	4,165
Reading	97	62	76	4	0.64	4	15.68	-3.85	49	2,619	432	3,999
Valley Forge Na	96	60	76	2	0.76	3	16.80	-1.96	34	2,315	-160	3,661
Willow Grove	94	63	75	4	0.08	1	16.43	-4.64	35	2,554	350	3,946

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals..

ADAMS, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some much needed rainfall on Tuesday in all parts of the county. Some areas had some sporadic rainfall last weekend but not the whole county. Soybeans and corn continue to look good and growing taller with the recent moisture. Corn silage will be chopped in a week or so. Alfalfa continues to grow and be harvested, and 2nd cutting mixed hay is growing but not tall enough to cut yet. Some ground in the county has been prepared for future plantings of alfalfa, barley, and wheat this past week. All fruit crops are looking good. Sweet corn seems to be plentiful this year.

ADAMS, Tara Baugher (EXT) - Peach quality is excellent.

CAMBRIA, Dolly Little (FSA) - Conditions in the county vary. The nights have been cool with a few scattered showers throughout the week. The ears on the corn are small. Some 3rd cutting hay was made, and the potato farmers are gearing up for potato harvesting.

CENTRE, Dick Decker - We got some relief from the dry spell. About 1.1 inches fell in my gauge. We continue to need rain, but last week was a help.

COLUMBIA, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Very little rainfall in the central Susquehanna region this past week. Corn is going backwards, and there could be problems with test weight. Soybeans need to fill, and many growers have concerns that they won't if additional rain isn't received. The 3rd cutting of hay is very short.

DAUPHIN, Jim Collom - Scattered showers on Tuesday and a few hours of drizzle Friday morning allowed us to skate along for another week. Rain has been anything but ample this summer, but it seems that just when things start to look bad we get some precipitation. Corn and beans still look pretty good. Second crop beans are looking fair.

DAUPHIN, Paul H Craig (EXT) - Silage harvesting is just around the corner. Soybean aphids appear to have peaked. Only the nymphal stage can be found. The winged adults appear to have left the fields. Extremely dry soil conditions persist around the area. Corn ears have good pollination, but moisture and heat stress is causing kernels at the tips to abort. In some fields this is approaching one quarter of the ears.

FAYETTE, Don Fretts (EXT) - Field conditions are very dry. Much of the SW received from 0.5 to 2 inches of rain this past week. But about 1.5 inches of that rain came as a heavy thunder shower, with runoff being significant. Some corn silage harvest has begun.

FOREST, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - It may be too late for normal corn yields. We need rain.

MONTGOMERY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - An inch or so of rain on Sunday the 14th helped replenish soil moisture. A hot and humid week kept things growing ahead of normal. Crops are looking good; some corn is denting, and beans are filling their pods. Sweet corn is also ahead of normal.

SNYDER, William C Sheaffer - We had rain on two days that helped the crops from further deterioration. On Tuesday we had a steady light rainfall, and on Friday a significant rainfall of 1 to 2 inches fell. However, some of the corn has dropped the ears and is dried from the ground up; also, some of the corn is showing signs of leaf disease as a result of the stress conditions. The rain was timely in aiding the soybeans in setting pods. A break in the temperatures and humidity was a welcome relief. The main activities were attending Ag Progress Days, haymaking, plowing, and spreading manure and lime.

UNION, Glenn Spangler - Rain this week is too late to help some of the corn grain crop. Soybean pod drop/aborting appears to be higher than normal.

WASHINGTON, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Soaking rains are much needed but may be too late for this season's crops.

WESTMORELAND, John Lohr (FSA) - Early-week moisture helped relieve the dry weather stress on some crops. Conditions are still dry, and it is rapidly approaching the time when rainfall will not help this season's crop. Crop yields will be extremely variable across the county. A few producers have started corn silage harvest because of the rapidly drying crop.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 21, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	11	9	8
Corn, dough	66	75	61
Corn, dent	21	35	23
Barley, planted	14	0	1
Oats, harvested	95	79	76
Tobacco, harvested	20	39	20
Potatoes, harvested	17	20	19
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	81	51	57
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	6	7	13
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	69	55	60
Peaches, harvested	58	73	70
Apples, harvested	23	31	20

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 21, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	13	29	44	10
Soybeans	3	9	27	49	12
Quality of hay made	1	9	43	34	13
Pasture	38	26	21	13	2
Apples	3	3	12	56	26

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